10. Action taken for identifying the core or critical tiger habitats, as required under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the interest of tiger conservation.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocal on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at the Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendment. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Road linkage for Najafgarh *via* Shyam Vihar

*305. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of objections received by Government against Notification No. F.9(88)/2004/L&B/LA/176 dated 7.4.2006 issued on behalf of Lt. Governor, Delhi by Land and Building Department, DDA for construction of a road linkage for Najafgarh area *via* Shyam Vihar;

(b) the number of dwelling units likely to be uprooted due to the implementation of this project;

(c) the action proposed to be taken to stop the construction of this road to prevent large-scale uprooting of dwelling units; and

(d) the reasons for not constructing an elevated road?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that 652 objections were received against section 4 Notification.

(b) Approximately 288 dwelling units are likely to be affected.

(c) No proposal is under consideration to stop the construction of the road.

(d) Construction of elevated road also involves removal of structures.

Utilization of BRGF

*306. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether 250 districts of the country have been short listed for the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme for receiving funds to reduce regional imbalances and eradicate poverty and backwardness and against allocation for 2007-08 of around of Rs. 4,670 crore, only Rs. 700 crore were disbursed;

(b) if so, the main reasons for not utilizing the funds;

(c) whether Government has changed the guidelines so that the funds are utilized fully and in time; and

(d) the latest position of utilizing the funds during the remaining period of the financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programmes includes three components namely, (i) releases to those districts which have not received their total entitlement under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY); (ii) funds for capacity building of Panchayati Raj institutions and (iii) untied development grant. The total amount available for disbursement under Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme during 2007-08 is Rs. 4760 crore. Of this amount, Rs. 250 crore is reserved for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The remainder is the untied development grant, which also funds the erstwhile RSVY schemes. An amount of Rs. 1286.46 crore has been released so far during 2007-08.

(b) The main constraints in the drawal of funds under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) have been the backlog of releases to be made under the erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and the necessary time taken in the preparation of district plans from the grass roots level upwards through Panchayats, and Municipalities and consolidated by the District Planning Committees, on which the BRGF proposals are to be based.

(c) It has been decided that the districts which have not yet drawn their total allocation of Rs. 45 crore under the RSVY, will also be eligible to claim development grant concurrently under BRGF provided they have prepared participative district plan duly integrated and consolidated by the District Planning Committees (DPCs) constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution.

(d) A National Workshop of Zila Parishad Presidents, Chief Executive Officers of Zila Panchayats and officials from the State Governments was held in Delhi on 13-14th October, 2007 during which steps to be taken to expedite the drawal of funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) were discussed with the participants. The State High Powered Committees in five States namely, Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have approved a number of district plans in the second fortnight of November, 2007, thus expediting the pace of releases under the programme.